

17

10/042,093
ARC919970008US2

REMARKS

Claims 1-73 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 20, 39, 58, 59 and 60-67 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 71-73 have been added, and correspond to independent claims 1, 20 and 39 of the originally issued patent (U. S. Pat. No. 6,112,202).

Applicant notes and greatly appreciates that a personal interview was conducted in this case on July 29, 2003. Applicant is grateful for the opportunity to discuss this case with the Examiner, and appreciates the Examiner's helpful comments made during the personal interview.

Further, Applicant notes that at the interview, the Examiner agreed with Applicant's representative that amending claims 1, 20 and 39 to incorporate a feature from claim 67 would overcome the cited references in this case. Applicant notes that this Supplemental Amendment amends claims 1, 20 and 39 in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for immediate allowance.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 14, 33 and 51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, as noted above, claims 1, 20 and 39, from which these claims depend, respectively, have been amended and are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are allowable.

A Supplemental Reissue Declaration will be submitted shortly.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-73, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

18

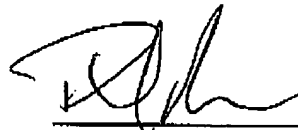
10/042,093
ARC919970008US2

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/15/03



Phillip E. Miller
Registration No. 46,060

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was filed by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Examiner Charles Rones, Group Art Unit #2175 at fax number (703) 746-7239 this 15th day of October, 2003.



Phillip E. Miller, Esq.
Registration No. 46,060